AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 20 line 1 with the following paragraph.

Under this approach, the return type of a table function is defined using a extensible an extensible and definable datatype that can be used to model a collection of data for any returnable or anticipates element or object type. Thus, the table function is declared to return data/collection whose structure is not fixed at function creation time. An exemplary approach to implementing dynamically definable datatypes is disclosed in co-pending U.S. Application Ser. No. 09/938,999 ———, attorney docket no. 264/283, entitled "Method and Mechanism for Storing and Managing Self-descriptive Heterogeneous Data," filed on even date herewith August 24, 2001 and issued on June 8, 2004 as U.S. Patent No. 6,748,388, which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.